



June 2020

# KENTUCKY

## LABOR FORCE UPDATE

### New Dashboard Explores Initial Unemployment Claims in Detail

KYSTATS recently released the [County Unemployment Update](https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/CUU_2020) dashboard which provides current data on initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims filed by Kentucky residents. The dashboard allows users to understand more about Kentucky workers and businesses affected by the Covid-19 public health emergency including demographics such as gender, age, and race as well as which industries are most affected.

County Unemployment Update

[https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/CUU\\_2020](https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/CUU_2020)

An initial claim is filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The initial claim is a request to determine the individual's basic eligibility for the UI program. Typically, after a person has filed an initial claim and has experienced a week of unemployment, the individual then files a continued claim to claim benefits for that week of unemployment. The data are extracted from the Program for Measuring Insured Unemployed Statistics System (PROMIS) which is populated with data files from the Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance. The data are updated weekly at the state and county levels. Note: These data are a snapshot in time and may change as additional claims are processed.

There was a sharp increase in the number of initial claims filed with the Office of UI beginning the week of March 15, 2020. According to PROMIS data, there were 1,999 initial claims made by Kentucky residents the week of March 8, increasing by more than 55,000 the following week. Of the 57,236 claims filed during the week of March 15, 63 percent were female (36,014 claims), 13 percent were minority claimants (7,189 claims) and 68 percent were workers between the ages of 25 and 54 (38,996 claims). When looking at initial claims by industry, the largest number came from those that were employed in the Accommodation & Food Services sector as many restaurants and bars were closed to in-person service (13,727 claims).

#### Key Indicators for All Counties for Week Beginning March 15, 2020

Total Initial Claims	Female	Minority	Age 25 to 54	Top Industry
57,236	36,014	7,189	38,996	Accommodation & Food Services

Between March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>, there were more than 50,000 initial claims each week. In total, there were 399,634 claims filed during this five week period.

If you have been laid off due to the coronavirus public health emergency, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance. You can file for unemployment benefits here: <https://kcc.ky.gov/>

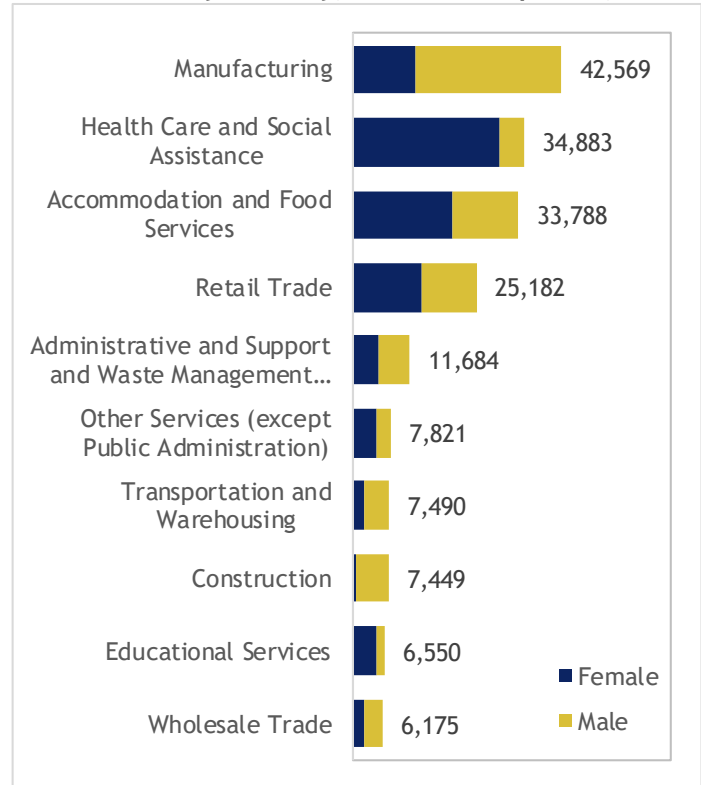


# New Dashboard Explores Initial Unemployment Claims in Detail

Workers from every industry sector filed unemployment claims during this five week timeframe. The adjacent chart shows the top ten sectors with claims, the largest is Manufacturing with 42,569 claims between March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> followed by Health Care and Social Assistance with 34,883 claims. Ninety-one percent of all initial claims that included information on their last employer were in these ten sectors. The majority of claims made in the Manufacturing sector were made by men while the majority of claims in the Health Care and Social Assistance sector were made by women. It should be noted that only 51 percent of all initial claims included information on last employer.

The following table summarizes initial claims data from March 15 through April 18, 2020, the peak weeks of initial claims. Females make up 51 percent of all initial claims among Kentucky residents during this period. The highest share of females making unemployment claims are found in TENCO (54.2 percent) and West Kentucky (55.1 percent) LWAs.

Initial Claims by Industry, March 15 - April 18, 2020



Source: Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance, PROMIS data

Initial Claims for Kentucky Residents, March 15 - April 18, 2020

LWA	Initial Claims	Female	Prime Age Workers	Minority
Bluegrass	87,493	50.5%	64.0%	13.8%
Cumberlands	27,976	49.5%	65.2%	3.2%
EKCEP	26,116	48.6%	67.2%	1.5%
Green River	17,379	48.3%	64.5%	7.2%
Kentuckiana Works	103,728	50.6%	64.2%	24.1%
Lincoln Trail	28,489	50.9%	63.6%	9.8%
Northern Kentucky	32,306	53.7%	62.0%	6.8%
South Central	28,140	50.1%	65.5%	12.8%
TENCO	17,068	54.2%	65.4%	3.8%
West Kentucky	30,922	55.1%	63.0%	11.8%
<b>Total Initial Claims</b>	<b>399,617</b>	<b>51.0%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>

Source: Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance, PROMIS data

Prime age workers are between the ages of 25 and 54. In Kentucky, this group made up 63.6 percent of the labor force in 2019 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. As shown in the adjacent chart, this age group made up between 62.0 percent (Northern Kentucky) to 67.2 percent (EKCEP) of initial claims in the LWAs during the five weeks of peak claims.

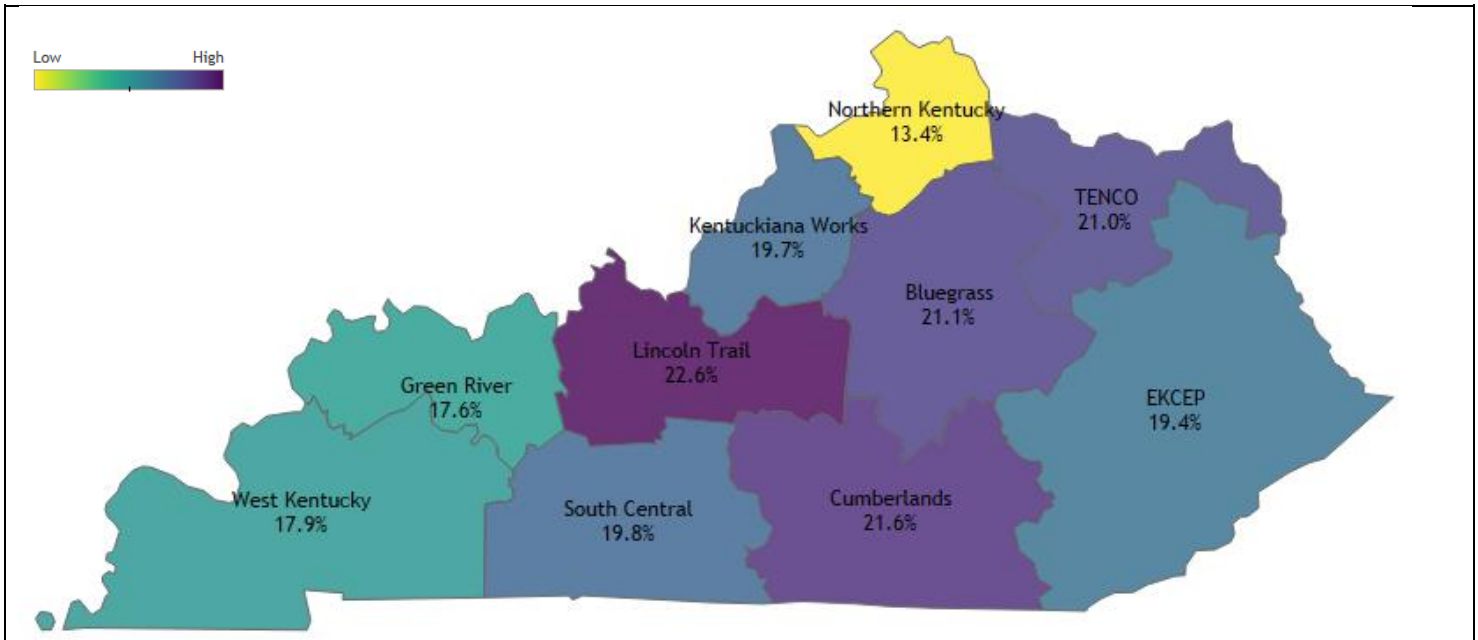
Minorities include all claimants of all races and ethnicities except for non-Hispanic whites due to redaction. Kentuckiana Works had the largest share of unemployment claims made by minority workers during this period, 24.1 percent.



## New Dashboard Explores Initial Unemployment Claims in Detail

As shown in the table above, total initial claims filed by residents of Kentucky during the five peak weeks are concentrated in the Kentuckiana Works and Bluegrass LWAs. However, when looking at initial claims as a share of the March civilian labor force in the bottom map, the Cumberlands and Lincoln Trail LWAs have the highest share of their labor force filing initial claims for unemployment.

Initial Claims as Share of Civilian Labor Force During Peak Weeks, March 15 to April 18, 2020



Source: Kentucky Office of Unemployment Insurance, PROMIS data

The volume of initial unemployment claims filed in Kentucky has been unprecedented. For reference, there were 792,665 initial claims filed in Kentucky during the Great Recession (December 2007 through June 2009), a period of 19 months. As shown here and in the KYSTATS dashboard, the impact of this current situation has been felt throughout the state, in every industrial sector, and across all demographic groups.



# KYSTATS NEWS

KYSTATS has updated several dashboards that can be accessed on our website (<https://kystats.ky.gov/>).



## Civilian Labor Force Report

This interactive report allows users to explore estimates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program and the Current Population Survey (CPS).

[https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/CLFR\\_2019](https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/CLFR_2019)



## Kentucky Workforce Dashboard

The Kentucky Workforce Dashboard is a user-friendly tool that local workforce areas can use to inform the impact of services in their area.

[https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/KWD\\_2020](https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/KWD_2020)



## Postsecondary Feedback Report

Earning a postsecondary credential can unlock opportunity, but a student's odds of success can vary based on the institution they attend, the credential they pursue, and the content area of their studies. This interactive report allows users to explore outcomes for students at each of Kentucky's postsecondary institutions by major and credential type.

[https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/2020\\_PSEFR](https://kystats.ky.gov/Reports/Tableau/2020_PSEFR)



Follow us on Twitter @KYSTATS for updates

## Kentucky Labor Force Update

A monthly publication of the  
Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS)  
Jessica Cunningham, Ph.D., Executive Director  
Ashley Jones, Labor Market Information Branch Manager

Kentucky Center for Statistics  
500 Mero Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor SC  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
[KYSTATS.KY.GOV](http://KYSTATS.KY.GOV)

For requests and inquiries, contact  
Kimberly Gester • [KGester@ky.gov](mailto:KGester@ky.gov) • 502.782.3066

Contributors to *Kentucky Labor Force Update* this month:  
Kimberly Gester and Brian Mudrak

*This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. ALL other uses require prior authorization by the copyright owner.*

*Published 6/30/2020*